

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending. By this amendment, claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 11, and 13 are amended. In view of the amendments and remarks set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance.

Among the limitations of Applicant's independent claims not present in the previously cited references is determining a number (N) of relay servers depending on a degree of urgency of content and relaying the content via a number of relay servers which is not greater than N.

As disclosed in the present specification, the number of relay servers is determined to be equal to or lower than a certain number (N) which is determined depending on the degree of urgency of the contents to be transferred. N relay servers are selected so that the total number of passing links is minimized. When such N relay servers can be obtained, N relay servers are used to transfer the contents. If such N relay servers cannot be obtained, N is decremented by 1 and N-1 relay servers are selected so that the total number of passing links is minimized. This procedure is repeated until the relay servers to be used have been obtained. When no relay server to be used is selected, the contents is transferred without using any relay server.

Neither the Applicant's admitted prior art nor the cited references disclose determining the number of relay servers depending on the degree of urgency of the content and relaying the content via a number of relay servers not greater than the determined number of relay servers. As such, Applicant's respectfully submit that each of the pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance.

Applicant has responded to all of the previous rejections and objections recited in the Office Action. Reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance for all of the pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

If the Examiner believes an interview would be of assistance, the Examiner is welcome to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Dated: August 23, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By

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